

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reducing the normal dosage of a pharmaceutical given to a patient for the treatment of a disorder without substantially reducing its effectiveness comprising the steps of:

5 administering an initial dosage of the pharmaceutical during a first predetermined time period;

administering a reduced dosage of the pharmaceutical during a second predetermined time period; said reduced dosage having less pharmaceutical than said initial dosage; said second predetermined time period being subsequent to said first predetermined time period;

administering a placebo during said second predetermined time period.

2. A method as set forth in Claim 1, further including the step of administering a placebo during said first predetermined time period.

3. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said reduced dosage is administered in a first unit and said placebo is administered in a second unit.

4. A method as set forth in Claim 3, wherein said second unit has a distinctive indicia.

5. A method as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said reduced dosage and said placebo are administered in a common unit.

6. A method as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said common unit has indicia which is substantially identical to said indicia on said second unit.

7. A method as set forth in Claim 1, further including the step of informing the patient during or prior to the second predetermined time period that said placebo does not contain said pharmaceutical.

8. A method as set forth in Claim 1, further including the step of informing the patient that the placebo may provide effectiveness when used with said pharmaceutical.

9. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said initial dosage is a normal dosage.

10. A method as set forth in Claim 1, further including the step of administering a reduced dosage during a third predetermined time period; said placebo not being administered during said third predetermined time period.

11. A method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said reduced dosage administered during said third predetermined time period is contained in units having an indicia which is substantially the indicia associated with said placebo.

12. A method as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said indicia enables the patient to expect the effects of said initial dosage.

13. A method as set forth in Claim 1, further including the steps of gradually lowering the dosage of said pharmaceutical from said initial dosage at the end of said first predetermined time period to said reduced dosage during said second
5 predetermined time period, and administering said placebo during said steps of gradually reducing the dosage of the pharmaceutical.

14. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical is stimulant.

15. A method as set forth in Claim 14, wherein said stimulant is a central nervous system stimulant.

16. A method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein said pharmaceutical is methylphenidate.

17. A method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein said pharmaceutical is dextroamphetamine.

18. A method as set forth in Claim 14, wherein the disorder treated is ADHD.

19. A kit for use in reducing the normal dosage of a pharmaceutical given to a patient for treating a disorder without reducing its effectiveness comprising:

a container;

at least a first unit having a reduced dosage of pharmaceutical;

at least a second unit having a placebo;

said first and second units received in said container.

20. A kit as set forth in Claim 19, further including a plurality of first units and a plurality of second units.

21. A kit as set forth in Claim 20, wherein said container includes a plurality of sub-compartments; said sub-compartments arranged in columns and rows; said plurality of first units and said plurality of second units received in said sub-compartments.

22. A kit as set forth in Claim 21, wherein each sub-compartment includes a divider which divides each sub-compartment into substantially two halves; a first unit received in one half of a substantial number of said sub-compartments, and a second unit received in the other half of a substantial number of said sub-compartments.

23. A kit as set forth in Claim 19, wherein said first and second units are pills.

24. A kit as set forth in Claim 19, further including written instructions coordinating the administration of said first and second units, whereby said first and second units will work together in treating the disorder.

25. A kit as set forth in Claim 19, wherein said second unit has distinctive indicia.

26. A kit as set forth in Claim 20, further including a plurality of higher dosage units; said higher dosage units containing more of the pharmaceutical than said first unit.

27. A kit as set forth in Claim 26, further including written instructions coordinating the administration of said first, second and higher dosage units, whereby said higher dosage units and a first portion of said second units will be administered during a first predetermined time period, and said first unit and a second portion of said second units will be administered during a second predetermined time period; said first predetermined time preceding said second predetermined time period.

28. A kit as set forth in Claim 24, wherein said written instructions indicate to the patient that the second unit containing the placebo may enhance the treatment of the disorder when taken with the first unit containing the reduced pharmaceutical.

29. A kit as set forth in Claim 28, further including a third unit; said third unit containing a reduced dosage of pharmaceutical and a placebo; said third unit to be administered

subsequent to said first and second units; said third unit having
5 substantially similar indicia as said second unit.

30. A method for reducing the normal dosage of a
pharmaceutical given to a patient for the treatment of a disorder
without substantially reducing its effectiveness comprising the
steps of:

5 administering substantially the normal dosage unit of a
pharmaceutical during a first predetermined time period;

administering a placebo unit during said first
predetermined time period;

administering a reduced dosage unit of pharmaceutical
during a second predetermined time period;

administering a placebo unit during said second
predetermined time period; said second predetermined time period
being subsequent to said first predetermined time period.

31. A method as set forth in Claim 30, wherein each of said
placebo units has distinguishing indicia.

32. A method as set forth in Claim 30, further including
the step of administering a reduced dosage unit during a third
predetermined time period; said third predetermined time period
being subsequent to said second predetermined time period.

33. A method as set forth in Claim 32, wherein said third predetermined unit has indicia which is substantially the same as indicia on said placebo unit.

34. A method as set forth in Claim 30, further including the step of informing the patient during or prior to said first predetermined time period that said placebo unit does not contain said pharmaceutical.

35. A method as set forth in Claim 30, further including the step of informing the patient that said placebo unit may be effective in treating the disorder when used with said reduced dosage unit.

36. A method as set forth in Claim 30, further including the step of gradually lowering the dosage of said pharmaceutical and administering said placebo while gradually reducing the dosage of said pharmaceutical.

37. A method as set forth in Claim 30, wherein said pharmaceutical is a stimulant.

38. A method as set forth in Claim 37, wherein said pharmaceutical is a central nervous system stimulant.

39. A method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein said pharmaceutical is methylphenidate.

40. A method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein said pharmaceutical is a dextroamphetamine.

41. A method as set forth in Claim 30, wherein said disorder treated is ADHD.

42. A method for reducing the full dosage of a pharmaceutical given to a patient for the treatment of a disorder without substantially reducing its effectiveness comprising the steps of:

administering a placebo in association with a substantially decreased dosage of said pharmaceutical to augment the effectiveness of the pharmaceutical, thereby maintaining the effectiveness of said pharmaceutical at the full dosage level.

43. A method for reducing the full dosage of a pharmaceutical given to a patient for the treatment of a disorder without substantially reducing its effectiveness comprising the steps of:

administering a placebo in a unit bearing distinctive indicia along with a unit having a full dosage of pharmaceutical;

administering a placebo in said unit bearing
distinctive indicia along with a unit having a reduced dosage of
pharmaceutical, whereby the visibly distinctive indicia heightens
10 the patient's conditioned response and expectation of
effectiveness.

44. A method as set forth in Claim 43, further including
the step of:

administering a reduced dosage of pharmaceutical in a
unit bearing said distinctive indicia subsequent to the step of
5 administering said placebo.

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